

Ac. 9 (83) (4)  
30/7/2

C O U N T Y   O F   A R G Y L L

A N N U A L   R E P O R T S

for the Year 1953

on

H E A L T H   A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

by

J O H N   A .   C .   G U Y ,   M . B . ,   C h . B . ,   D . P . H .

County Medical Officer of Health

and

A L E X .   W .   W A T T E R S

County Sanitary Inspector.



TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR SCOTLAND  
AND THE  
COUNTY COUNCIL OF ARGYLL

My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the following Report on the Health  
of the County during the year 1953.

The Annual Report of the County Sanitary Inspector is included.

I am,

My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN A. C. GUY

County Medical Officer of Health.



ARGYLL COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT

---

Office - County Offices, Oban.

Postal Address - County Medical Officer, Oban.

Telephone No. Oban 2489.

---

LIST OF STAFF

County Medical Officer of Health

John A.C. Guy, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Ed.)

Assistant Medical Officers of Health

Catherine A. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Glas.)

Robert S. Hardie, B.A. (Oxon.), M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Ed.)

County Sanitary Inspector

Alexander W. Watters

Divisional Sanitary Inspectors

John S. Bryce	- Kintyre Area
Wm. S. Porteous	- Mid-Argyll Area
Neil G. Weir	- Islay, Jura and Colonsay Area
Robert Easton	- Cowal Area
James Stewart	- Ardnamurchan and Lorn Area

Local Sanitary Inspectors  
(Unqualified)

Hugh MacKinnon	- Tiree
E.A. Mather	- Mull
F. Bremner	- Coll
M. MacIntyre	- Colonsay

Milk Officers

Miss E.M.M. Adam	- Ardnamurchan, Cowal, Lorn, Mid-Argyll, Mull, Coll and Tiree.
Vacant	- Kintyre and Islay.
Chief Health Visitor	- Jessie Morrison, R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Clerical Staff - Headquarters

Chief Clerk - Ann L. Maclean

Clerkesses and Typists - Nicholas M. Gray  
Elma C. Munro  
Catherine McCulloch  
Lena Lockhart

Divisional Sanitary Inspector's Office  
Kintyre

Clerkess - Patricia D. Morris

Divisional Sanitary Inspector's Office  
Cowal

Clerkess - Moira L. Whyte



## PREFACE

The vital statistics indicate that the health of the population during the year 1953 remains satisfactory.

There is no appreciable change in the birth rate which is 15.2 per thousand of the estimated population and compares favourably with the figure of 15.7 for 1952. The infantile mortality rate of 32 per thousand births shows a marked improvement over past years and now approximates the average figure for the whole of Scotland. I hope this improvement will be maintained or even show a lower figure in the years to come.

The death rate shows a slight fall 14.7 as compared with 15.7 in the previous year. Attention is drawn to the deaths at various ages which is in some ways a better indication of the health of the community than the actual death rate.

The Registrar-General has given the population of the County as 60,116. This is a very much lower figure than that given for the previous year when it was 64,095. The Census for 1951 recorded a figure of 63,270 and it is difficult to believe that there has been such a big fall in the population when there would appear to be a large number of people entering and residing in the County in connection with afforestation and hydro-electric schemes.

I have given tables showing the distribution of the population within the County which is of interest. There is still a tendency to gravitate from the rural areas to the burghs partly due to increased work within the centres of massed population and partly due to the attractions of modern life which the populous centres can offer.

I would like to thank Dr. R.S. Hardie for the great interest he has taken in the public health work of this County and for his assistance in compiling the Annual Report.

I would also take this opportunity of thanking all the members of my staff for the good work they have done during the year and for the help they have given and the loyalty they have shown to me throughout the year under review.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28647142>



# COUNTY OF ARGYLL

## Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health

for Year ending 31st December 1953.

### Vital Statistics.

The mid-year population of Argyll, according to the Registrar-General's estimate was 60,116. The mid-year estimate for 1951, was 61,487: the Census figure - 1951; April 8th - was 63,270.

The distribution of the population in the County between Burghs and Landward area is shown in the following table.

Table 1.

Area	Population
Campbeltown Burgh	7,247
Dunoon "	9,520
Inveraray "	537
Lochgilphead "	1,239
Oban "	6,087
Tobermory "	705
County Landward	34,781
Whole County	60,116

Births. Registered live births in Argyll County in 1953, corrected for mother's residence, numbered 916 (468 males, 448 females).

There were 48 illegitimate births.

The birth rate was 15.2 per 1,000: in 1952 it was 15.5. The general birth rate in Scotland in 1953 was 17.8.

There were 18 still-births during the year, a rate of 19 per 1,000 total births. The still-birth rate in Scotland as a whole in 1953 was 25.

The following table gives the number of births by Burghs and Landward area:

Table 2.

Area	Births		
	Male	Female	Total
Campbeltown Burgh	77	68	145
Dunoon "	63	63	126
Inveraray "	3	7	10
Lochgilphead "	7	15	22
Oban "	54	47	101
Tobermory "	5	7	12
Landward County	259	241	500
Total County	468	448	916

Deaths./



## Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the County in 1953 was 847. The total, corrected for residence, was 881. The Death Rate, per 1,000 of estimated population, was 14.7. Last year, 1952, the rate was 15.7. The 1953 rate, adjusted for age and sex distribution, was 11.0. Of the total deaths, 115 (or 13%) were of persons 85 years of age and older. Deaths of all persons of 75 and over totalled 394 (or 45% of the total deaths). Deaths of persons of 65 and over numbered 617, or 70% of the total deaths. The average age at death was 67.9 years.

At the beginning of life, there were 29 deaths of infants under 1 year of which 19 occurred in the first month of life (neo-natal deaths).

The infant mortality rate (I.M.R.) was thus 32 per 1,000 live births and the neo-natal death rate 20 per 1,000 live births. These deaths, together with the still births and the maternal mortality are, in any community, an important index of the general health of the population and of the efficacy of maternity and child welfare services. The general rates for Scotland in 1953 were

Infant Mortality Rate.....	31	per 1,000 live births
Neo-natal Death Rate.....	19	" " " "
Still Birth Rate.....	25	per 1,000 total births
Maternal Mortality....	slightly less than 1	" " " "

There was in Argyll in 1953 one maternal death attributable to childbirth, on a total of 794 births, which actually took place in the County.

## Causes of Death.

1. Infant Mortality. The chief causes of death under 1 year were:

Pneumonia	6
Congenital malformations	3
Birth injuries, asphyxia, atelectasis	8
Other diseases peculiar to early infancy	8
Violence, accident	2

2. Deaths of children, 1 - 15 years (6 deaths). The chief causes were:

Accidents	2
Measles	1
Congenital	1
Diseases of nervous system	2

3. Young adults, 15 - 35 (24 deaths). The chief causes were:

Violence, accidents	8
Respiratory Tuberculosis	5

4. Deaths from infectious diseases: The chief causes were:

Tuberculosis	19
Measles	1

Deaths/



Deaths by Burghs and Landward area are given in the following table:

Table 3.

Area	Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Campbeltown Burgh	43	47	90
Dunoon "	69	84	153
Inveraray "	4	7	11
Lochgilphead "	6	14	20
Oban "	39	30	69
Tobermory "	10	5	15
Landward County	270	253	523
Total County	441	440	881

In the course of 1953 the Registrar-General published his detailed analysis of the information about Argyll obtained in the 1951 Census. There had been no census in 1941, and comparison of the 1951 figures with those of 1931 shows some marked changes over the 20 years.

Tables, made up from the Registrar-General's figures, and giving the principal population figures for the County are given below:

Table 4.

Area		Population 1931	Population 1951	Increase or Decrease as Percentage of 1931
Argyll (whole County)		63,050	63,361	+ 0.5%
Small Burghs		23,049	25,763	+ 11.7%
Landward Mainland		30,189	29,442	- 2.4%
Landward Insular		9,765	8,156	- 16.5%
Small Burghs	Campbeltown B.	6,309	7,172	+ 13.6%
	Dunoon B.	8,780	9,940	+ 13.2%
	Inveraray B.	455	503	+ 10.5%
	Lochgilphead B.	974	1,229	+ 26.2%
	Oban B.	5,759	6,226	+ 8.0%
	Tobermory B.	772	693	- 10.2%
Landward Mainland	North Lorn	5,178	4,102	- 20.8%
	South Lorn	4,265	4,287	+ 0.5%
	Mid-Argyll	5,571	5,494	- 1.4%
	Kintyre	6,064	5,819	- 4.0%
	Cowal	7,003	7,961	+ 13.7%
	Ardsnamurchan	2,108	1,779	- 15.6%
Landward Insular	Mull	2,388	1,961	- 17.9%
	Tiree & Coll $\phi$	1,773	1,429 $\phi$	- 19.4%
	Jura & Colonsay $\phi$	620	496 $\phi$	- 20.0%
	Islay	4,984	4,270	- 14.1%

$\phi$  Two islands taken together as they constitute together a Landward District. See later table for island figures separated.





Table 5.

Area		Children 0 - 15 Percentage of local Population in area in		Working 15 - 65 Percentage of local Population in area in		Elderly 65 & over Percentage in area in	
		1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951
Argyll (Whole County)		22.1	22.4	65.4	63.5	12.5	14.1
Small Burghs		23.1	22.8	65.2	63.8	11.7	13.4
Landward Mainland )		21.6	22.1	65.5	63.6	12.9	14.3
Landward Insular )			22.5		62.0		15.5
Small Burghs	Campbeltown	28.9	26.7	61.9	64.0	9.2	9.3
	Dunoon	17.9	21.5	67.7	61.3	14.4	17.2
	Inveraray	17.8	17.3	70.1	71.4	12.1	11.3
	Lochgilphead	22.8	24.8	62.2	62.1	15.0	13.1
	Oban	22.3	20.6	68.3	67.2	9.4	12.2
	Tobermory	22.4	20.0	62.1	63.3	15.5	16.7
Landward Mainland	North Lorn	23.6	19.7	67.2	66.4	9.2	13.9
	South Lorn	17.5	25.0	70.4	61.6	12.1	13.4
	Mid-Argyll	18.9	19.7	67.1	67.1	14.0	13.2
	Kintyre	26.7	24.0	63.3	63.5	10.0	12.5
	Cowal	19.6	21.7	66.9	61.5	13.5	16.8
	Ardnamurchan	19.3	23.6	62.9	61.6	17.8	14.8
Landward Insular	Mull	20.8	20.0	64.5	64.2	14.7	15.8
	Tiree & Coll		22.5		59.4		18.1
	Jura & Colonsay	18.0	24.8	66.0	59.5	16.0	15.7
	Islay	23.7	23.4	62.7	62.1	13.6	14.5

Table 6.

Population changes in Islands, 1931-1951.

Island	Population 1931	Population 1951	Increase or Decrease %
Islay	4,970	4,267	- 14.1%
Mull	2,903	2,420	- 16.1%
Tiree	1,448	1,216	- 16.0%
Seil	367	287	- 21.8%
Jura	364	258	- 29.1%
Coll	322	210	- 34.8%
Luing	312	219	- 29.8%
Lismore	280	191	- 31.8%
Gigha	240	190	- 20.8%
Colonsay	232	227	- 2.1%
Iona	141	173	+ 22.7%
Kerrera	79	60	- 24.0%
Easdale	78	23	- 70.5%

It will be seen that, while the population of the County as a whole has, if anything, risen slightly, within the County the Burghs have gained substantially, while the Landward areas, except some adjacent to growing Burghs, have lost. The loss is, as we have learned to expect, most marked in the remoter, especially insular areas. A separate table shows the changes in the populations of the inhabited islands, between 1931 and 1951. (Table 6).





In regard to population structure, it will be seen that in Argyll, as a whole, as elsewhere indeed in the United Kingdom, the proportion of the population constituted by persons of 65 years and older has risen noticeably in the last 20 years: and there is every reason to expect, as the Royal Commission on Population, as well as the Beveridge Report clearly pointed out, that in the next 20 years the rise will be still more noticeable. This increased proportion is due, of course, to a number of factors, falling birthrate, and emigration, as well as the better expectation of life of individuals in consequence of improved standards of working and living environment, and of the greater efficacy of modern medical and surgical treatments.

This change in population structure confronts the community with an increased responsibility in the provision of adequate maintenance of persons past working age, and has led to a clearer recognition, in late years, of the community's task in the alleviation - where alleviation is feasible - of the hardships caused by the infirmities of old age. This "problem" is now-a-days constantly being brought to our attention. It is important, in this matter, to keep a sense of proportion, and not to imagine that, so far as care of individuals in distress goes, the problem is worse than in fact it is. As a national economic question, it is no doubt true that the financing of pension schemes to give "adequate" pensions will present increasing difficulties; but relief of physical disabilities and the provision of one or other form of household or institutional help will not, in terms of money, put any crushing burden on Local Authorities. Argyll's annual expenses in Part III Accommodation, and in Domestic Help for old persons, amounted, in 1953 to £14,034.17. 7. In addition to this, from the national standpoint, there are the expenses of maintaining old people in hospitals, and the pension provisions of the National Insurance system.

Demographers label old people - together with other "non-productive" fractions of the community - as the "burden of dependency", but this is a misleading description. A great many old people, even if of pensionable age, have, in the past, in most cases, done years of useful work and have built up, implicitly if not explicitly, means for their own support. And thereafter many of them continue for years to play a very useful and welcome part in the life of the community and the family. Furthermore, we must be on our guard against talking as if all, or most, elderly people were decrepit. The Standing Medical Advisory Committee in its recent report on the "Ageing Population" estimated that in an average population only about 5% of old people needed "places" in hospitals and institutions. The rest are in their homes.

These homes are not, however, always suitable. Real poverty, in the sense of actual want and malnutrition, is now broadly almost entirely confined to a section of the elderly population. Moreover, any town population can show a quite surprising number of old people virtually marooned, for life, in upstairs flats because, by reason of heart trouble, arthritis, giddiness or other disability they cannot "manage" the stairs. This last is the sort of problem which a Housing Authority, taking its duties to the health and welfare of the community and of individuals seriously, should, and can, often alleviate. Rural areas have their own peculiar difficulties, often contributed to, or created by, dispersal, isolation, and poor housing. Are we, in Argyll - I am thinking of the Burghs as well as the Landward areas - doing all we could do in this field?

Local Authorities have, of course, statutory duties in regard to old people needing care and attention, short of hospital treatment. It is not a field for officious standardised procedures, since individual human needs, feelings and circumstances are of importance in our ideology. Success will be best achieved by a maximum flexibility and variety of method. Voluntary bodies, with their more personal touch can do a great deal, and co-operation between a voluntary body and a Local Authority may be very valuable and effective. We, in Argyll, are feeling our way rather cautiously (and wisely so, I think) towards suitable solutions within our capacity.

The/



The loss of population from the remoter areas of the Highlands, shown clearly by the new Census figures, is, of course, no new development. It is true that we may say that the population of the County, as a whole, has not fallen in the last 20 years: but within the County the concentration towards the Burghs is well marked. We have, however, practically no information about movements within the County and between the County and regions furth of Argyll. But comparison of the information about birthplaces of the inhabitants in 1931 and in 1951 gives us a pointer. In 1931, 38% of the population of the County was found to have been born outside Argyll (32.1% elsewhere in Scotland, 5.8% outside Scotland). In 1951, the proportion born outside Argyll was 42% (34.2% elsewhere in Scotland, 7.7% outside Scotland). The difference of 4% amounts to about 2,500 people. The fall in our landward population in these 20 years is rather over 2,000, and I do not think we should be far wrong in assuming - though the facts I have given do not prove it - that the people who have left the remoter areas are not the people in the main who have augmented the Burgh populations. At the same time, however, it would not be reasonable to expect, or even to hope, that all persons born in Argyll should stay there.

Should anything - can anything - be done about this rural depopulation? If yes, the Local Authorities must surely play an important part in doing it. They should have a peculiarly good knowledge of the special circumstances and potentialities of particular areas, and they have a moral duty, which their natural patriotism, as well as their interest in rateable values, will strengthen, to do everything they can to promote the best use of their own territory by their own people. Is there, perhaps, something we can do to encourage people, especially younger people, to make their homes in the rural parts of the County, without expecting them to tolerate unreasonable hardships and risks? It is not merely a question of providing a good house. Is there a reasonable livelihood, affording the standards of life that we now-a-days consider essential?

We are all familiar with the stock topics of this debate - housing, communications, freights, electric power, forestry, and so forth. The ground has been traversed again and again, and we have had plenty of time, and material, to make up our minds. It should be said, however, that even if we come to the conclusion that there is not an adequate livelihood even for present numbers, that is not a justification for a merely negative attitude to the whole problem. Suggestions for at least mitigating the impoverishment and depopulation that is going on have been made often enough. Can we honestly say that such suggestions as have been offered have been seriously considered? The West Highland Survey of Dr. Fraser Darling and his coadjutors goes into great detail in all aspects of the problem, and indicates a number of hopeful lines of development in certain areas. The Report has apparently been pigeon holed at St. Andrew's House, perhaps pending the Reporting of the Crofting Commission: but are his suggestions not worth pursuing? If they are not, should we not try to find out why not?

Another line of attack has been promoting light industries. Can these do something to help? Much work has been put into pilot schemes by private individuals and public bodies, and their efforts are valuable both as a present solution of some local difficulties, and as an indication of future possibilities. Forestry has, of course, come to be an integral part of our normal economy, though some of the Forestry communities raise their own special difficulties: but Forestry, in addition to providing full-time employment, can also, it is said, offer part-time (winter) work which can be combined with summer crofting in suitable localities. This kind of part-time work may be valuable. But light industries, intended to give part-time supplementary employment to crofting communities, do not seem to me to have a very stable future. If good wages are worth while part-time, they will be more so whole-time, and my expectation would be that the part-time agricultural work on the croft, being hard, usually, and not particularly rewarding in money terms, would tend to be neglected. I think we must face the fact that a cash income, not a produce income, is becoming more and more essential, even in the remotest areas. There are, admittedly,/





admittedly, still large numbers of persons in the Highlands whose income in hard cash is certainly below what would be necessary to enable them to pay the rent of even a heavily subsidised Local Authority house (if that should be offered to them and if they should want it) and to purchase the "necessities" of life not produced locally. That is a situation with which we are all quite familiar in the field of Local Authority housing. We must, however, recognise that this in some respects primitive economy, cannot maintain itself in its present form. If we accept this, then we cannot - unless we are prepared to see these areas coming to depend largely on old age pensions and on bed-and-breakfast for tourists - escape the necessity for some re-organisation of the system of land use. This re-organisation has, in fact, been going on steadily in the better agricultural areas that once were crofting areas, and in many it is practically complete, the crofts having been replaced by large or small but at least economic farms. It is, on the whole, the worst land that is still under crofts, and the grinding difficulties of the crofting economy have led to a further lowering, by overgrazing and under-capitalisation, of the agricultural potential. Deliberate amalgamation will therefore not only need capital, but will lead to a further lowering of the level of population that can be locally supported, and this, it must be faced, might well mean the extinction of more townships or crofts. The Crofting Commission has reported since the drafting of this report was begun. Its recommendations will require serious study, and if effective action to re-invigorate small-holding agriculture in the Highlands and Islands comes of it, this will deserve the energetic support of all who are interested in Highland welfare. Nothing less than a real and persistent effort will have any appreciable result: and it must be remembered that not all the areas that are losing population to the cities now-a-days are crofting areas at all.

If the Local Authorities are to play any part in such an effort - and as it involves the health and welfare of a considerable part of the County it seems essentially a subject for the Local Authority rather more perhaps than for the Department of Agriculture - or at least the Local Authority should be in close touch with the Department - then the Local Authority will find itself involved in a wide field of agricultural technicalities, for the technicalities may be of vital importance for the social welfare of the inhabitants.

This is not, in principle, a new thing, for the Local Authority is, in any case, already involved in agricultural technicalities (of a bacteriological and chemical nature) and an advisory service in the matter of milk production. As I mentioned in my last year's report, the agricultural and health policies of the Central Departments in regard to milk production are beginning to produce rather unexpected economic and social consequences, of which we may have to take more serious account before long.

No one will deny that the aim of improving the quality of milk supplies generally is a good and proper aim. But if the standards of purity are to be inflexible in all areas, then we must recognise that in marginal and remote areas, apart from the mere difficulty of supervision and testing (in which we, as a county cannot be said to have shown any outstanding enthusiasm) production of approved untreated milk may become so onerous that it may be abandoned. And yet the choice is not really between no production and the old slapdash production. Tuberculin-tested cattle give a milk involving virtually no risk of conveying tuberculosis to children: with this safeguard, most people will not worry much - and really they will not be far wrong - about other bacteria, so long as they do not have to drink pasteurised milk, a thing no country people will submit to readily.

In this situation, it can be seen how policy decisions that are wise, and/



and practicable, in big towns and thickly populated areas, are considerably less easy to make workable if it is proposed to apply them holus-bolus to remote areas.

The transfer of the inhabitants of Soay to small-holdings in Mull is another instance of an operation by a Central department of a type in which it seems to me the County Council ought to have more part. I am not suggesting that the Department of Agriculture acted high handedly in this matter at all - they carried out a job that needed to be done, and shouldered the whole cost. But an important question of Social Welfare was involved, and I feel that a Local Authority should be very jealous of its right to have a hand in all matters of this kind.

Questions like this may vitally affect planning for housing, schools, water supplies: "planning" is mere temporising, and possibly misguided, if such questions are not taken into account. I have sometimes felt that we may already be beginning, by, for example, putting some new houses in remote localities, to be unnecessarily creating, or perpetuating, or aggravating, existing or future problems of people living in a locality which does not, perhaps cannot, naturally and adequately support and serve them.

We know that applications will come forward for new houses, wherever they may be built, from persons sometimes living in quite other areas, not because the new houses are in the place where the applicants specially want a house, or will even find it convenient to live, but because their existing housing conditions are so bad that they would go almost anywhere, and would even leave a settled job, to get a good house for a wife and young children.

There are communities in this County now - some of the old slate villages, and Portnahaven, and Port Wemyss, for instance - whose future cannot be viewed with any optimism at all. If we build new houses in that kind of place, simply because there are people there already (often old people in deplorable houses), is this "cure" not merely prolonging the disease?

Local authority building in out of the way spots may be justified: but if a substantial positive justification that will stand up to criticism cannot be defined, it has to be remembered that building and maintenance in out of the way places is not only of rather speculative value to the community, but is also much more expensive to the Authority than building in established and viable communities with adequate existing services: and this may unnecessarily increase the County's already formidable financial burden.

The whole problem of the future of the remote areas is one which, in greater or less degree, affects all the Highland Counties, not Argyll alone. It is one in which surely all the Authorities together should more freely, and eagerly, rather than reluctantly, exchange information and views, and get the best advice possible, so that, if the problems raised really are insoluble, at least each may be able to say that it has seriously applied itself to them before giving up. It may be exceedingly difficult to reach decisions, and the prospect of these difficulties may deter us from making the effort even to reach the stage of decision, but we should face the fact that such decisions may be right and necessary: and if we are not prepared to face the issues, we should not delude ourselves that there are not issues for us to face.

These are health and welfare problems in the widest sense: they are problems to which the various separate committees of the County Council - Health, Education, Finance, Housing, Water, and Planning - all have an interest and something important to contribute. They are problems which it seems to me the latest Census figures must press insistently on our attention.





I turn now to two specific environmental features of the daily life of the Argyll communities on which the 1951 Census report throws new light. An important part of the 1951 Census enquiries were those made in each household regarding home conditions - the availability of piped water, the provision of water closets, sinks, etc. As in 1931, too, data in regard to rooms and numbers per room - primarily to elicit information about overcrowding - were again obtained in 1951. We had obtained some information about overcrowding from our 1936 Housing Survey: but we did not, at that time, collect together and centralise information about house sanitation. Thus the 1951 Census figures on this subject are important as being the only summary of figures that we have for the County as a whole. I have, moreover, through the kindness of the Registrar-General, had these figures broken down by Registration Districts, of which, there are 62 in the County. Space precludes my setting out all the details in extenso, but I give, further on, a table (Table 7) showing the number of houses in each registration district which do not have the most fundamental amenity of the five taken into account - namely a piped water supply. We should be grateful to the Registrar-General for giving us this information which is undoubtedly of importance. We are, ourselves, at the present time, endeavouring to get simplified "Housing Survey" data of much the same sort in one or two localities in Argyll: and the forthcoming Rents and Repairs Bill may involve further enquiries in this field.

First then in regard to size of houses.

In 1931, in Argyll as a whole, 1,392 persons (2.4% of all persons living in private houses) were living in (627) one-room houses (786 persons in (300) houses in Burghs, 606 persons in (327) houses in the landward area).

In the same year, 13,066 persons (22.2% of all the persons living in private houses) were living in (3843) two-room houses in the County (5609) persons in (1500) two-room houses in Burghs, 7457 persons in (2343) two-room houses in the landward area).

In 1951, in the County as a whole, 515 persons (0.9%) were living in (256) one-room houses (328 in (152) one-room houses in Burghs, 187 in (104) one-room houses in the landward area).

In the same year, 7,360 persons (12.9%) were living in (2845) two-room houses (3713 in (1403) two-room houses in Burghs, 3,647 in (1442) two-room houses in the landward area).

These figures show a substantial improvement.

In regard to OVERCROWDING, this, of course, is a phenomenon which varies a good deal from year to year and even from month to month: and one house may vary from another a great deal in the degree of harm that may arise from overcrowding it. It would be almost, but not quite, fair, to say that only in unfit and poor houses where there are children or young persons is overcrowding a serious matter, urgently calling for remedy by the Housing Authority.

The 1951 Census shows 7.6% of the population (9% of the Burgh populations, 7% of the landward) - about 4,300 people in all - living more than two to a room. In 1931 the corresponding figure for the County was 18% (10,620 persons) - 23.1% of the Burgh populations, 15.2% of the landward. Our County Housing Survey of 1936, though not complete, suggested that about 25% of the one-room and of the two-room houses in the County were overcrowded: and that the percentage of houses overcrowded was worst (about 11%) in Islay, Kintyre, and North Lorn.

In regard to household sanitation and amenities, the Registrar-General in this, his first, survey in this field, classifies provision under five heads - (i) piped water, (ii) proper cooking facilities, (iii) a kitchen sink, (iv) a W.C., and (v) a fixed bath.

All/



All five conveniences (i.e. for exclusive use) were possessed by 4,078 households (51.5% of households enumerated) in the mainland landward area: 322 households (4.1%) in the same area had none at all. Of the insular landward households, only 890 (37.1%) had all five conveniences for their exclusive use: 277 households (11.5%) had none at all. (In this connection it should be noticed that the mainland landward population is about three times as large as the insular).

Passing to detail, I take (a) piped water and (b) a W.C. as perhaps the most worthy of notice. It will be borne in mind that whereas (b) is not possible without (a), (a) may be installed without (b).

(a) Piped water.

In the burghs, the percentage of houses with an exclusive piped supply varies between 93.4% (in Inveraray) and 96.8% (in Dunoon). A small percentage of burgh households share: houses without a supply at all constitute between 0.3% (Dunoon) and 1.7% (Tobermory).

In the landward parts of the County, the Registrar-General again distinguishes between the mainland and the insular areas. In the mainland area

83%	(6,572)	households	had	an	exclusive	supply
1.9%	(148)	"	"	"	a	shared supply
15.2%	(1,202)	"	"	"	NO	SUPPLY.

In the insular area

60.6%	(1,454)	households	had	an	exclusive	supply
2.6%	(62)	"	"	"	a	shared supply
36.8%	(883)	"	"	"	NO	SUPPLY

The details of Registration Districts are given in a table at the end of the next section.

(b) Waterborne sanitation.

In the burghs, the percentage of houses with no W.C. varied between 0.4% (Oban) and 1.6% (Lochgilphead): the percentage sharing ranges between 15.9% in Tobermory, and 49.6% in Inveraray.

In the mainland landward area

70.2%	(5,576)	households	had	an	exclusive	W.C.
9.8%	(772)	"	"	"	a	shared W.C.
20.0%	(1,587)	"	"	"	NONE.	

In the insular area

52.4%	(1,252)	households	had	an	exclusive	W.C.
3.7%	(88)	"	"	"	a	shared W.C.
43.9%	(1,053)	"	"	"	NONE.	

A table (7) showing the detailed figures for the Registration Districts/





Districts on Mainland and Islands is given below -

Table 7.

Census 1951. Figures from Registrar-General regarding amenities in houses in Argyll, by Registration Districts.

Division	Registration District	Total Number of Houses	Houses without piped water (a)	Houses without W.C. (b)	Percentages	
					(a)	(b)
LORN	Kilmallie	44	33	34	75%	75%
	Ardgour & Kingairloch	59	13	24	22%	41%
	Strontian	85	38	38	45%	45%
	Acharacle	108	43	47	40%	43%
	W. Ardnamurchan	87	24	28	28%	32%
	Morvern	138	23	31	16%	23%
		521	174	202	33%	39%
	Kinlochleven	206	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}\%$	$2\frac{1}{2}\%$
	Glencoe & Ballachulish	325	78	89	24%	28%
	Duror	82	20	34	24%	41%
	Appin	143	25	58	17%	40%
	Lismore	71	52	54	73%	76%
	Ardchattan	180	47	63	26%	35%
	Glenorchy & Inishail	146	33	37	23%	25%
		1153	256	310	22%	30%
	Muckairn	364	46	67	13%	18%
	Kilchrenan & Dalavich	110	21	25	19%	23%
	Kilmore & Kilbride $\phi$	409	30	44	7%	11%
	Kilninver	28	1	2	4%	7%
	Kilmelfort	47	9	10	19%	21%
	Kilbrandon & Kilchattan	203	126	140	62%	69%
		1161	233	288	20%	25%
	Total houses	2835	663	830	23%	30%
MID-ARGYLL	Craignish	60	10	13	17%	22%
	Kilmartin	125	25	48	20%	38%
	Glassary	128	43	56	33%	43%
	Lochgilphead $\phi$	438	35	36	8%	8%
	Minard	184	57	65	31%	35%
	Inveraray $\phi$	106	40	52	38%	50%
	North Knapdale	128	22	30	17%	24%
	South Knapdale	81	8	12	10%	15%
	Kilberry	63	7	18	11%	29%
	Total houses	1313	247	330	19%	25%
KINTYRE	Tarbert	492	21	19	4%	4%
	Kilcalmonell	90	4	14	4%	16%
	Skipness	59	12	18	20%	30%
	Saddell	207	20	37	9%	18%
	Killeen & Kilchenzie	192	31	49	16%	25%
	Gigha & Cara	55	24	38	44%	70%
	Campbeltown $\phi$	362	60	92	17%	25%
	Southend	124	16	24	13%	20%
	Total houses	1581	188	291	12%	18%
	Strachur/					



Division	Registration District	Total number of Houses	Houses without piped water (a)	Houses without W.C. (b)	Percentages	
					(a)	(b)
COWAL	Strachur	148	13	15	9%	10%
	Strathlachlan	62	13	15	21%	24%
	Kilmorich	49	15	19	30%	38%
	Lochgoilhead	174	5	7	3%	4%
	Kilmun	447	23	28	5%	6%
	Dunoon ø	799	4	18	$\frac{1}{2}$ %	2%
	Inverchaolain	30	1	1	3%	3%
	Colintraive	51	8	9	16%	18%
	Kilmodan	69	11	17	16%	24%
	Kilfinan	419	35	45	8%	10%
	Total houses	2248	128	174	5%	8%
ISLAY etc.	Portnahaven	100	73	79	73%	79%
	Kilchoman	223	79	92	35%	41%
	Kilmeny	154	63	71	40%	46%
	Bowmore	355	93	109	26%	30%
	Kildalton & Oa	329	64	87	19%	26%
	Jura	76	22	33	30%	43%
	Colonsay & Oronsay	67	10	12	15%	18%
	Total houses	1304	404	483	31%	37%
MULL	Kilninian & Kilmore	99	41	46	41%	46%
	Tobermory ø	14	1	2	7%	14%
	Salen	130	18	26	14%	20%
	Ulva	30	13	15	43%	50%
	Torosay	56	17	21	30%	37%
	Kinlochspelve	29	5	9	17%	31%
	Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon	230	119	127	52%	55%
	Total houses	588	214	246	36%	42%
TIREE		382	221	265	58%	70%
COLL		70	20	21	29%	30%

ø Burgh figures not included.

These figures are not impressive. There is no lack of Acts of Parliament enabling Local Authorities, in various ways, to promote the abolition, or at least amelioration, of such disagreeable, if not positively unhealthy, conditions. And in 1953-4 yet another Act, in part directed to this end, is being added to the Statute Book. If improvement in this field is desirable - and surely it is - on grounds of health, ought we not, perhaps, to try to do rather more than we are doing, difficult though it may be?

We may look with pride at the unusually high proportion of very old people in this County, and we may notice, with some gratification, that our freedom from epidemics compares satisfactorily with the records of other areas, and we may think that the bad effect of poor housing on health is perhaps liable to be exaggerated. But we must also remember that our infant mortality rate, and our tuberculosis rate, has not compared so favourably with those of other rural areas.

I admit that an attempt to prove a direct correlation between these two rates and our bad housing, besides being exceedingly laborious, would also probably be unsuccessful. In human bionomics complicating factors, often/





often essentially irrelevant, usually prevent the establishment of a clear correlation: and the final statistical statement of probability will contain so large an element of uncertainty as to be, for practical purposes, unprofitable. But in this matter, it appears to me that whatever mathematical expression of probability or improbability might emerge from such an exercise, common sense tells us that it would be a thoroughly good thing drastically to reduce the number of insanitary or "subsanitary" occupied houses in this County. It is too easy in this matter to adopt, through long familiarity (I know this for myself at least) an attitude of resigned fortitude - to the sufferings of others.

The problem of insanitary housing is now among the most urgent health questions in the County and it is one in which we must take a sustained, comprehensive and active interest: this we shall have to do in any case if we are to operate the new Rent and Repairs Act, effectively.

As part of the general approach to this question, these figures from the Registrar General should be of interest. They are of course founded primarily on the statements of the house occupants themselves, and they may be thought for that reason not to be altogether reliable. As anyone who has had any experience of standardised questionnaires knows, a surprising number of cases always comes to light in the course of the enquiry which are difficult to fit into pre-determined categories. It is of interest that in one area where recently a door-to-door survey was carried out with reference to the nature of the water supply, the figure for houses without water was found in fact to be substantially greater than the total number of such houses recorded for that area by the Registrar General in 1951.

As a further means of illuminating the background to this problem in Argyll, I have been preparing from my records a review of the proportion of first allocations of new County Council houses in recent years made to applicants classified in the 'Points' lists as living in 'Unfit' houses. In a review made in this way there are bound to be uncertainties due to inaccuracies of description or of classification: and results stated in numerical form are bound to be misleading if important qualifying considerations are not kept constantly in mind - such as, for instance, that, in modern housing legislation, the occupancy of an unfit house is not the only kind of valid claim for rehousing. I have therefore not thought it appropriate to include in this report the schedules, summaries and tentative conclusions of this review. I hope before long to submit this review to the County Council. Meanwhile I shall only say that I am rather disturbed by the picture which is beginning to emerge.

The new Rent and Repairs Act will bring us to close quarters with this problem. The key as I see it to the whole situation is to keep clearly in mind the essential principle that the prime object of local authority housing, as of other branches of health and environmental services, is the improvement and the maintenance as improved, of the health of the community. In comparing alternative proposals, whether in rehousing, in water supplies, in drainage or anything else where a health issue arises it is important first to attempt to gauge the benefits in health to be expected from each alternative. When these comparisons have been made, it is reasonable, then, to proceed to the secondary steps - what, for instance, we may consider a reasonable expense for the health benefits which we now envisage. To do all this will almost always mean a laborious collection of data from individual houses: but if the necessary comparisons cannot be made without these data, then the laborious collection of them must be undertaken, and the necessary comparisons must be made, before sound decisions can be reached. And when decisions are made, they should be made on the basis of the data.

To say that in these questions it is health considerations that are of paramount importance is to say that other committees, besides the Health Committee, exercise important Health functions. The original Health Committee of the County Council dealt with Housing and Water Supplies as well as straight Health questions. But, as the increasing responsibilities of/



of the Council, and the increasing volume of business, made the Health Committee's agenda more and more unwieldy, it became necessary to form ad hoc Housing and Water Committees. I have the impression that one result of this has been a certain tendency in these Committees to lose sight of the fact that it is in its functions primarily a Health Committee and not a "business" committee. It is salutary, in the midst of difficulties and perplexities, to keep this guiding principle firmly in view. I believe, as I have suggested above, that there should be a greater degree of integration, or at least of coherence, in the policies of the various Committees which handle Health issues.

#### Care of Mothers and Young Children (under School Age).

##### (a) Mothers.

Some general practitioners arrange clinic sessions for their patients: but even in the Burghs in Argyll it has been found that additional Local Authority clinics for expectant mothers do not receive sufficient support to justify continuance. Such clinics would be difficult to arrange, and would tend to cause friction with local practitioners, whose supervision is normally very adequate.

##### (b) Children.

The baby clinics at Campbeltown and Dunoon have been maintained, but with these exceptions individual pre-school child welfare is, and in an area such as this, must be, in the hands of the local general practitioner.

##### (c) Dental Service.

No specific arrangements for dental services to mothers and young children have hitherto been made by the County Council. But recently arrangements were made with a dental surgeon in Islay, and another in Mull, for part-time dental supervision of school children. This could possibly, when the arrangements are running smoothly, be extended to expectant mothers and young children, but as under the National Health Service mothers and young children already receive free dental treatment, without the basic charge, such an arrangement is less urgently necessary in areas where any dental surgeon already practices. It is proposed however to appoint a County dental officer to provide a service primarily for school children. In areas with existing practising dental surgeons it may be advisable for the Health Authority to make similar arrangements with these dentists as was done in the Islands of Islay and Mull.

#### Midwifery.

The County District Nurse Midwives attended 299 births at home in 1953. This is 8 more than in 1952. The recent increase in the maternity grant for confinements at home from the National Insurance Fund may substantially increase the number of home confinements. It is too early as yet to attempt to gauge what this increase may be.

Confinements at home constituted 32% of all confinements occurring in or transferable to, Argyll.

Of the confinements in hospitals etc. 479 took place in hospitals in the County (134 in Glencoe, 179 in Craigard, Campbeltown, 166 in Struan Lodge, Dunoon) and 120 in hospitals or institutions furth of Argyll.

The provision of apparatus for analgesia remains at 11 machines. Some doctors use their own. In 1953 an apparatus was transferred to Ardnamurchan from Benderloch (in which area now an apparatus can easily be/





be borrowed from Oban or Taynuilt for the very few home maternity cases which occur there).

#### Health Visiting.

Statistics of visits are given in Form H.S.15. There is a considerable overlap between the visit figures given under Ante-natal visits in the Domiciliary Midwifery section, and those given under "Expectant Mothers" in the Health Visiting section.

Health visiting in Rural areas is necessarily a matter largely of co-operation between the District Nurse and the Doctor, and of the initiative of the Nurse herself, rather than an activity centrally supervised and directed. In the matter of infectious disease and School Health however the School Medical Officer and I and my staff are in constant contact with the Districts. Co-operation between Nurses and general practitioners, the Tuberculosis Physician and Sanatorium, and my department, needs some further development and I hope to make progress in this field this year so that each Department dealing with some aspect of Tuberculosis cases may have up-to-date information as to what the others have ascertained, or are doing, or propose to do. This is not very easy in a "Highlands and Islands" area under the new Health Service arrangement. In addition to this I should like to have a definite and workable procedure also in the follow up of B.C.G. vaccinated cases, and in the rapid testing of contacts of known tuberculous cases. But it will be realised that it is no easy matter either to take a specialised investigating service to remote areas, or to bring inhabitants of remote areas to a centre for investigation.

#### Home Nursing.

73,004 visits to 6,169 cases were recorded in 1953. A large proportion I think of the home nursing is of elderly people but I have not yet found it possible to obtain valid figures as to the exact proportions in the various Nursing Districts and in the County as a whole.

#### Domestic Help.

The Clerks to the District Councils and the Councils themselves continue to give invaluable service in investigating and meeting local applications. This year's returns show that about 50% of the cases helped were old people. The total cost of the service in 1953 has been £5,003:13: 9 - money well spent, I am quite convinced.

A table (8) showing the numbers of cases helped and the financial details by districts is attached.

#### Vaccination and Immunisation.

With rather more difficulty than I expected, I have succeeded in obtaining what I think are fairly complete figures about Vaccinations and Immunisations.

Table 9/





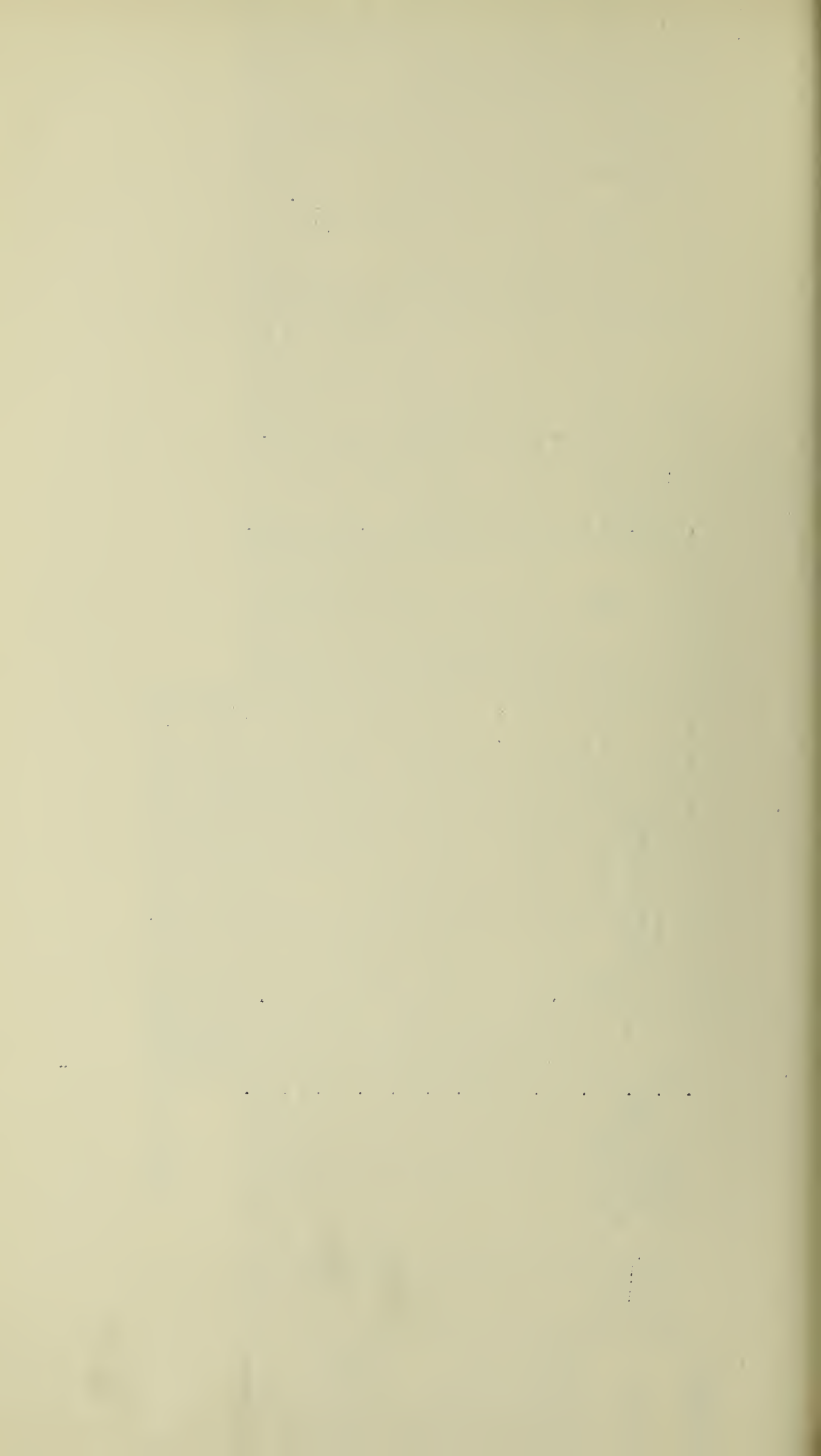




Table 9.

District	Pre-School				School			
	Immunised	%	Vaccinated	%	Immunised	%	Vaccinated	%
Oban	263	68.4	286	74.5	994	71.3	944	67.7
Dunoon	446	83.8	431	81.0	1262	77.2	1132	69.3
Campbeltown	58	10.9	91	17.1	1049	71.7	1010	69.0
Ardnamurchan	40	32.8	54	44.2	153	67.7	158	69.9
Cowal	434	85.7	335	66.2	727	93.8	566	73.0
Kintyre	256	61.5	291	69.9	609	84.1	576	79.5
Lorn	393	73.1	311	57.9	953	92.8	898	87.5
Mid-Argyll	342	79.5	355	82.6	813	87.3	737	79.1
Islay	108	55.3	91	46.6	500	72.2	365	52.7
Jura and Colonsay	36	100.0	36	100.0	55	98.2	34	60.7
Mull	129	67.5	123	64.4	266	85.5	237	76.2
Coll & Tiree	53	49.5	56	52.3	189	84.0	128	56.9
	2558	63.7	2460	61.7	7570	80.5	6785	72.1

Total number of school children 9400  
Total number of pre-school children 3982

#### Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

I have already mentioned the difficult situation in scattered rural areas in regard to Tuberculosis control, where a number of agencies or individuals are now concerned, none of whom can be dispensed with and between whom there is not always rapid exchange of information as to recent developments. It is essential however that a good working arrangement should be arrived at, and I am going into the whole question now.

#### Control of Infectious Disease.

There were no serious epidemics in 1953. The doubts which I expressed in my report for 1952 about the possibility of an inadequate margin of empty beds in Infectious Disease Hospitals, to cope with any sudden outbreaks of infectious disease, have not been realised, and I am grateful to the Regional Hospital Board for meeting me in this matter. The demand in Argyll for hospital beds for general cases, for tuberculosis, and perhaps most of all for elderly sick people, must I know make the deliberate retention of empty beds seem a rather heartless thing. But some margin, particularly in the epidemic season (early spring) is really essential, though I would not press for more than the minimum required for safety.

#### Tuberculosis.

Notifications in 1953 were:-

Respiratory - 34 (18 males; 16 females)(85 in 1952)

Non-respiratory - 7 ( 3 males; 4 females)(15 in 1952)

The/



The age distribution of this year's notifications was:-

Table 10.

Age Group	Respiratory Tuberculosis		Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5 years	1	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	1	5	2	1
15 - 25 years	4	4	-	-
25 - 45 years	9	3	1	3
45 - 65 years	3	3	-	-
65 and over	-	1	-	-
Totals	18	16	3	4

There were 19 deaths from Tuberculosis, 9 males and 10 females, a rate of .32 per 1,000 persons in the County. Last year's rate was 0.23, and that of 1951, 0.44. The tuberculosis death rate for Scotland as a whole in 1953 was 0.26 (respiratory only 0.23).

Of the 19 deaths, 6 were first notified as tuberculous cases within 12 months of death.

#### Mental Health Services.

The arrangements in force are working in a satisfactory manner. The help we receive at all times from the Superintendent and staff at the Argyll & Bute Hospital is invaluable. We also have a debt of gratitude to acknowledge to other Hospitals, Clinics and advisers outside Argyll, for the help they give us in special cases, since we have no standing organisation of our own for dealing with these.

#### Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act.

There are no Local Authority or Voluntary Nurseries registered in Argyll, and no registered "Child Minders".

#### School Health Service.

The usual Annual Report, covering the year up to 31st July 1953 was sent to the Department of Health on 1st December 1953.

A part-time school dental service was started in Islay, by arrangement with the dental surgeon practising there. He also visits Jura and Colonsay. A similar service was commenced in Mull, but unfortunately the dental surgeon concerned decided to give up practice there. I hope to carry out similar arrangements with his successor (if there should be one).

A County Dental Officer has not yet been appointed.

#### Port Health Administration.

There has been nothing of active interest to record in this sphere.

#### Food Supply.

The County Sanitary Inspector's Report covers the chief items of importance in regard to routine work.

There/





There have been no outbreaks of milk borne disease, or of food poisoning, of any note.

During 1953 only one Milk Officer has been in the employment of the County Council. I am glad to say that it has now been decided to remedy a state of affairs which made it quite impossible that even the statutory tests of 'designated' milk producers, let alone tests, advice and supervision to any producer requiring these, should be provided for.

#### Slaughterhouses.

The sudden announcement by the Ministry of Food of its intention to abandon the staffing and operation of slaughterhouses raises serious problems and seems peculiarly precipitate (though possibly in the long run desirable) when consideration of slaughterhouse requirements generally for Scotland is under discussion in an interdepartmental Committee. It seems a pity to abandon the present organisation before we have made up our minds as to what arrangements we need, or want, for the future. The step being taken by the Ministry will force Local Authorities to take over a set-up which the existence of this Committee shows to have being regarded, at least in some quarters, as unsatisfactory.

#### National Assistance Act.

"Part III" Accommodation is provided in Oban (Dalintart), in Islay (Gortanvogie) and at Campbeltown (Witchburn House) - all premises under the control of the Regional Hospital Board. It is difficult to say whether or not this accommodation is really adequate. Requests for Part III accommodation for elderly persons would probably be greater if there were more accommodation available, in different areas. Such additional places will be provided when the Eventide Home in Oban is opened, and if and when the County Council's proposed arrangement with the Glasgow and West of Scotland Convalescent Seaside Home in Dunoon comes into operation. It will readily be understood however that Part III residential accommodation for old people in, say, Oban or Campbeltown is not a very satisfactory solution for an elderly and infirm resident of Ardnamurchan or Tiree. Removal to a far distant town, where the old person may have no friends, would in such a case be no kindness, and might even be a death sentence - and this is no mere figure of speech. So that the location of the places, as well as their number, is important.

As the County Council recovers, or can recover, the cost of such accommodation in proportion to resources, this service is not at all likely to be exploited, though there will always be a deficit of some magnitude since it is usually persons with very small incomes and/or in receipt of National Assistance who make use of it. It is in fact in the accommodation of more or less helpless, bedridden old people - who are by definition the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board - that the greatest difficulties arise. There are already waiting lists of such persons and the lists would probably be longer if the hope of early accommodation were more substantial. Meanwhile, these people are being attended to, with greater or less difficulty, by relatives and neighbours, and by the County's District Nurses and Home Helps. Although in many cases the need for institutional care develops slowly, in others it arises urgently and suddenly: and I cannot speak too highly of the readiness of the Board's Doctors, Matrons and staff to make every effort to cope with such emergencies. But it is clear that adequate accommodation is not at present available, and that in meeting these emergencies the staff concerned do more than should really be expected of them.

Lastly, temporary accommodation which (Section 21, 1(b)) it is the duty of Local Authorities to provide "for persons who are in urgent need thereof,"





thereof, being need arising in circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen .....". This is the "fire or flood" type of case. These cases crop up each winter: the County has no temporary accommodation, and it is quite astonishing what an amount of time it takes to make even the sketchiest arrangements to alleviate the situation when an emergency arises. The sort of case I have in mind is perhaps that of a tinker family suddenly deprived, by a gale, of their tent, and the situation being complicated by their having several children, one of whom is on the point of being discharged from hospital after pneumonia.

The solution in one such case was to arrange for the family to be provided with a new tent. Section 21 paragraph 2 states that "in the exercise of the duty of providing (temporary or permanent) accommodation the Local Authority shall have regard to the welfare of such persons ..... and in particular to the need for providing accommodation of different descriptions suited to different descriptions of such persons" (a provision which it might be thought would justify the County Council in providing a tent). But Section 21, paragraph 4 prohibits this solution by laying it down that "Accommodation provided by a Local Authority ..... shall be provided in premises managed by the Authority, or ..... by another Local Authority as may be agreed. Since then the County Council could hardly be said to "manage" a tent and therefore could not legally pay for one, it was finally found possible to have the tent provided by the generosity of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Benevolent Society.

This prolonged struggle well illustrates how restricted in fact is the Local Authority's ability to give real help in such cases, so long as it does not have permanent "managed" premises of its own. Yet it is obviously quite uneconomic for the County Council of Argyll to have such "managed" premises dotted about the County - they would be empty 99 days out of a hundred, or else would be permanently occupied by persons removed from some of the many hopelessly insanitary dwellings that continue to be occupied (and even to change hands by purchase) in the County and Burghs - in which latter case of course they would cease to be available for temporary use in an emergency. The Act says that "it shall be the duty of every Local Authority" to provide such temporary accommodation. In practice however it is - it was in the case I have mentioned, at least so far as the County was concerned - impossible.

#### Nursing Homes Registration.

There are no registered nursing homes in Argyll.

#### Health Education.

No organised campaign has been undertaken in 1953.

#### General Sanitation.

I have already in the earlier part of this report made some observations on Housing, Sewerage, and Water Services.

A hitherto comparatively minor question which is beginning to assume greater proportions, is the question of the control of camping and caravan sites. This is an economical and admirable form of holiday and one which deserves every encouragement. But there are certain obvious dangers when popular camping sites are close to existing houses, or in water supply areas, and we must I think begin to consider seriously whether any new precautionary measures are desirable and practicable, and whether any new byelaw provision of powers is called for.



C O U N T Y   O F   A R G Y L L

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

for the Year 1953

by

ALEX. W. WATERS

County Sanitary Inspector.



### Water Supplies.

At the end of the year the new water supply schemes for Carradale, Dervaig and Campbeltown-Machrihanish were completed and in operation and the pipe line on the Connel-Benderloch scheme was extended to Keill Crofts. The Furnace-Crarae scheme is well advanced, the pipe line from the intake to Minard and through Furnace Village being now completed, and a start has also been made on the Muasdale-Glenbarr scheme. Additional works at the Portnahaven scheme (installation of pumps) and Tayvallich (installation of filters) were completed by the end of the year except for some minor items.

The water supplies for two housing schemes - Craignure and Saddell - which have developed into Rural Water Schemes, are nearing the completion stage and the water supplies at four housing scheme sites - Cullipool, Kilmartin, Dalmally and Appin - have been completed. Four private water supplies were taken over by the County Council during the year - Clachan and Whitehouse, Kintyre, Newton-Leanoch and Ardgour.

Works of improvement were carried out at existing public supplies as follows:-

Balvicar:- Scraping of main completed.

Innellan:- Filters cleaned, and pipe line throughout the village scoured.

Lochgoilhead:- Section of 2" main renewed.

Sandbank:- Extension to filter house and installation of new filtering plant completed.

Tarbert:- Storage tank cleaned.

Tighnabruaich-Kames:- Filter sand replaced.

Taynuilt:- Major leak and several minor leaks located and repaired.

Extensive damage was caused to the reservoir at Ballachulish during the severe thunderstorm at the end of May and emergency repairs had to be carried out to keep the supply functioning. A scheme for a new intake on the River Laroach, and storage tank, to link up with the existing water main is being considered as against the reinstatement of the existing supply which would be very costly.

A serious shortage of water to Dunstaffnage Village occurred towards the end of the year and much difficulty was experienced in tracing the leaks which were the cause of the trouble. The communication pipes throughout the village are in a bad state due to corrosion and complaints are constantly being received from householders regarding the poor supply to their houses.

### Water Sampling.

Twenty-three chemical and 17 bacteriological samples of water were taken in connection with new Rural Water Supply Schemes and existing public supplies and 11 chemical and 6 bacteriological samples were taken in connection with proposed new supplies for private houses and existing private supplies where the quality of the water was in doubt.

In addition to the above, 23 chemical and 16 bacteriological samples were taken at farms where new water supplies were introduced under the Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

As a result of the completion of the new Rural Water Schemes and the advantage taken of the improvement grants available under the Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1950/52 and the various schemes of assistance operated by/





by the Department of Agriculture, there has again been a substantial increase during the year in the number of houses provided with inside water supplies and sanitary facilities.

### Drainage.

No new Special Drainage Districts were formed during the year but a scheme has been proposed for the formation of a Special Sewerage District to include the various County Housing Schemes not already in Special Drainage Districts and to be known as The County of Argyll (Miscellaneous Areas) Special Sewerage District with effect from the 16th May, 1954. The number of Special Drainage Districts at present in the County is 14.

Schemes for the installation of sewers in the three new districts formed last year for Carradale, Carnoch and Dervaig have been approved but the work of laying the sewers has not yet started. Sewerage facilities are very much needed in these districts and particularly at Carnoch where improvements to houses are being held up because of the difficulty in disposing of drainage. The high cost of providing sewerage schemes for these small and low rated villages is a strong deterrent against the formation of special districts but on the other hand the lack of sewerage facilities, especially in the more congested villages, is deterring progress in the modernisation of the houses.

Kilmartin is a case in point. Here most of the householders have bought their houses and many would like to instal modern conveniences but owing to drainage difficulties they have had to be discouraged. The houses are built in rows with little or no ground attached where it might be possible to deal with the drainage from each house individually by the installation of septic tanks and soakaways. A proposal to form the village into a Special Drainage District has been deferred meantime because of the high cost and low rateable value of the subjects.

### Scavenging.

The Special Scavenging District which was formed last year at Appin has been dissolved, thereby reducing the number of districts in the County to 19. Consideration is being given to the formation of a combined Special District for Bunessan, Craignure, Dervaig and Salen in Mull. Salen is already a Scavenging District and the proposal is to form districts at Bunessan, Craignure and Dervaig and to combine the four districts for rating purposes.

The scheme proposed for the collection of refuse in the Mull of Kintyre is now agreed and should come into operation on the 16th May, 1954. The scheme has been made possible by the co-operation of the Burgh of Campbeltown in undertaking the work of collecting the refuse from all the villages in the area and at a most reasonable cost. In addition to the districts already being scavenged - Carradale and Machrihanish-Stewarton-Drumlembie - the following villages will also benefit under the new scheme - Torrisdale, Saddell, Peninver and Glenrasmkill in East Kintyre; Southend in South Kintyre, and Dunmore, Auchaleek, Kilmichael, Kilkenzie, Bellochantuy, Glenbarr, Glencroghan, Muasdale, Killeen and Tayinloan in West Kintyre.

### Food Supplies.

In the supervision of food supplies many visits were made to various types of foodshops and premises where foodstuffs and stored or prepared for sale. While conditions, particularly in regard to back-shops, were not all that could be desired, only in one case was the condition of cleanliness really bad. The difficulty with the back-shops is the limited accommodation and in many instances, particularly in the Burgh shops, it would be impossible to extend the premises due to site congestion.

The advent of electricity to some of the rural areas has resulted in the installation of refrigerators in many of the shops and hotels in the landward area and during the year quite a number of shopkeepers have been replacing existing refrigerators with larger and more modern types.



Visits were also made to various foodshops, hotel and restaurant kitchens and private slaughterhouses during an official visit by Mr. A. Ritchie, Chief Food Hygienic Officer, Department of Health.

Meat Inspection.

There are 4 public slaughterhouses in the County and 14 licensees of private slaughterhouses - 7 in Islay, 4 in Tiree and 1 each in Lismore and Lochaline, hold permits from the Ministry of Food to slaughter sheep. Detention duties at the public slaughterhouses are carried out by the slaughterhouse managers and Local Veterinary Surgeons are appointed to act as Meat Inspectors. In Islay detention duties are carried out by the Divisional Sanitary Inspector and the Local Veterinary Surgeon acts as Meat Inspector. Specified days and hours for slaughtering were fixed for the private slaughterhouses and the conditions were fulfilled.

The following tabular statement shows the number of animals slaughtered and the weight of meat condemned at the public slaughterhouses:-

Campbeltown Public Slaughterhouse.

Class of Animal	Number of Animals			Weight (in lbs.) of Condemned Meat and Offals
	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	
Cattle	710	18	-	14337
Sheep	3072	11	-	450
Calves	2829	6	-	311
Pigs	37	3	-	551
Totals	6648	38	-	15649

Dunoon Public Slaughterhouse.

Class of Animal	Number of Animals			Weight (in lbs.) of Condemned Meat and Offals
	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	
Cattle	838	3	13	11937
Sheep	3402	-	-	858
Calves	122	-	-	-
Pigs	66	-	-	60
Totals	4428	3	13	12855

Oban Public Slaughterhouse.

Class of Animal	Number of Animals			Weight (in lbs.) of Condemned Meat and Offals
	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	
Cattle	968	17	33	17457
Sheep	5174	42	22	4039
Calves	404	5	4	674
Pigs	262	1	3	252
Totals	6808	65	62	22422





One Certificate of Approval was issued in terms of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations (Scotland) 1932 in respect of premises used for the storage of meat.

Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) Act, 1928.

Seventeen applications for renewal of Slaughterers' Licences were received during the year and all were granted. Three new applications for licences were also received, and the capabilities of the applicants being adequately vouched for in each case, licences were granted.

Unsound Food.

A total of 2 tons 13 cwts. 0 qrs. 7 lbs. 5 ozs. of foodstuffs was condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year in terms of Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. The foodstuffs were condemned during the course of inspections to shops and on examination at the request of shopkeepers. The following table shows the type and weight of foodstuffs condemned:-

Article	Weight				
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meat	1	2	3	10	4
Tinned Vegetables	-	2	3	1	8
Fresh Meat	-	2	-	3	-
Tinned Soup	-	1	1	10	-
Tinned Fruit and Juices	-	8	2	9	9
Tinned Ham	-	-	1	2	8
Tinned Fish	-	-	1	22	-
Tinned Cream	-	-	-	-	10
Tinned Milk	-	-	3	24	12
Bananas	-	-	1	20	-
Butter	-	-	-	15	-
Jam and Syrup	-	-	1	14	-
Eggs	-	-	2	17	-
Sugar	-	12	-	-	-
Cereal	-	-	-	5	-
Honey	-	-	-	1	8
Cheese	-	-	-	-	8
Sauces	-	-	-	12	8
Apple Puddings	-	-	-	5	-
Coffee	-	-	-	-	10
Totals	2	13	-	7	5





Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act.

Thirty-seven formal and 190 informal samples were taken during the year and submitted to the County Analyst for examination and the following table shows the nature of the articles procured and the results of the analyses:-

Foods Sampled	Informal		Formal		Totals
	Genuine	Not Genuine	Genuine	Not Genuine	
Blancmange	3	-	-	-	3
Butter	1	-	-	-	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	2	-	-	-	2
Coffee	2	-	-	-	2
Coffee Extract	1	-	-	-	1
Cornflour	1	-	-	-	1
Chocolate Spread	2	-	-	-	2
Custard Powder	2	-	-	-	2
Cooking Fat	2	-	-	-	2
Dripping	3	-	-	-	3
Fish Paste	1	-	-	-	1
French Dressing	1	-	-	-	1
Honey	3	-	-	-	3
Ice Cream	23	2	-	-	25
Iced Lolly	1	-	-	-	1
Milk	67	8	15	4	94
Mince	5	1	-	-	6
Meat Paste	5	-	-	-	5
Margarine	2	-	-	-	2
Oatmeal	1	-	-	-	1
Sandwich Spread	1	-	-	-	1
Sausage	35	6	3	-	44
Strawberries (Canned)	1	-	-	-	1
Table Jelly	3	-	-	-	3
Tomato Ketchup	1	-	-	-	1
Tomato Soup Mix	1	-	-	-	1
Unsweetened (Ginger) Concentrate	1	-	-	-	1
Vinegar	1	-	-	-	1
Whisky	1	-	15	-	16
Totals	173	17	33	4	227



In addition to the samples procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 584 samples of milk submitted for bacteriological examination were also examined for butter fat content and 12 or 2.1% were found to contain less than 3% butter fat. The average butter fat content was 3.41%.

Three of the non-genuine formal samples of milk were first offences and the vendors were given a warning and subsequent samples obtained from them were found to be satisfactory. The producer-retailer from whom the fourth non-genuine milk sample was obtained asked for "appeal to the cow" samples to be taken and in taking individual samples from the 12 cows in the herd it was found that the milk of two cows was deficient in both milk fat and solids-not-fat and the milk of three was deficient in solids-not-fat. Three of the cows concerned were disposed of and the remaining two were retained for the farmer's own use. Subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

The vendors of the non-genuine informal samples were warned and further samples obtained from them were found satisfactory. Appeal to the cow samples were also taken at two farms in connection with two unsatisfactory informal milk samples. At one farm it was found that out of the 15 cows in the herd, two were giving milk deficient both in milk fat and solids-not-fat and the milk of 10 cows was deficient in solids-not-fat. The average milk fat was 3.33% and the average solids-not-fat 8.0%. At the other farm the average solids-not-fat of the 14 cows in the herd was 8.46%.

#### The Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations.

Particulars of the samples taken under the above regulations are included under "Food and Drugs". Opportunity was taken during the course of sampling to see that the requirements of the Regulations as to the labelling of foodstuffs containing preservatives were being observed. There were no contraventions.

#### The Labelling of Food Order.

The examination of tinned foods etc. was also carried out during the course of food inspections and sampling duties for contraventions of the above Order. No irregularities were detected, nor were any contraventions of the Order reported to this Department.

#### Milk and Dairies.

The number of registered dairy premises at the end of the year was as follows:-

Registered and Provisionally Registered Producers	- 420
Registered milkshops and retailers only	- 28

Fifteen registered producers were removed from the register and 6 new registrations were granted in respect of premises in - Ardnamurchan - 1; Islay - 1; Kintyre - 1; Mid-Argyll - 2 and Mull - 1. The producers removed from the register had ceased to produce milk for sale or had given up their farms. Steady progress was maintained during the year in the testing of cattle under the Attested Herds Scheme and practically 100% of the dairy herds in the County are now Attested.

During the year works of reconstruction and improvement were carried out at 16 existing byres and dairy premises to bring them up to Byelaw standards and the number of premises reconstructed in connection with new registrations was 6. In addition minor improvements were carried out at other farms, and major improvement works are in progress at 11 producers' premises.

The/





The following table shows the number of registered and exempted premises and the number of milk cows in the various districts of the County:-

District	No. Producers		No. of Milk Cows	
	Registered	Exempted	Registered Premises	Exempted Premises
Ardnamurchan and North Lorn	21	7	254	46
Cowal	28	8	704	60
Islay	80	8	1644	44
Kintyre	222	3	6273	11
South Lorn	26	12	522	78
Mid-Argyll	28	9	550	64
Mull, Coll and Tiree	15	9	221	43
Totals	420	56	10168	346

In all, about 800 routine inspections of registered dairies, exclusive of visits in connection with sampling, were carried out by the Divisional Sanitary Inspectors and Milk Officer.

The number of producers reported for unsatisfactory milk supplies under the Scottish Milk Testing Scheme was less than in the previous year. This was fortunate in more ways than one and particularly from the staffing point of view. It is part of the Milk Officer's duties to visit the farmers reported for unsatisfactory milk supplies in order to investigate the complaints and the time spent in checking the condition of utensils and milking methods generally is considerable. With only one Milk Officer to cover the whole County it is impossible for her to investigate each complaint promptly as she may be in another part of the County on similar, or just as important, duties. This County is much too large and widely scattered for one Milk Officer and during the year she has had to spend much of her time travelling thousands of miles in an endeavour to give each district some supervision. If the service is to attain any degree of success it is essential that there should be two Milk Officers at least. One is required for Kintyre alone where there are over 200 dairy farms, including 151 farms where Tuberculin Tested Milk is produced.

#### School Milk.

Forty samples of school milk were obtained by the Milk Officer during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:-

Type of Milk	No. Samples		
	Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	20	19	1
Tuberculin Tested	16	13	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	4	4	-
Totals	40	36	4

The number of samples taken is a considerable drop from the previous year's figures and here again the lack of an adequate staff of Milk Officers is to blame.

Milk/



Milk (Special Designations)(Scotland) Order, 1951.

Twelve new Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences and one Pasteuriser's Licence were issued during the year, and eight Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences and one Standard Milk Licence were withdrawn where the licence holders had either given up their farms or had gone over to beef production. The number of licences in force at the end of the year was as follows:-

Designation	No. Licences							
	Dealers' Licences	Producers' Licences						Total Producers
		Cowal	Islay	Kintyre	North and South Lorn	Mid-Argyll	Mull & Coll	
Certified	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculin Tested	9	17	24	151	14	7	1	214
Standard	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pasteurised	6	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	27	18	24	153	15	8	1	219

The number of milk samples obtained from producers in the County and submitted for bacteriological examination was 428. This is a considerable drop in numbers compared with previous years. Most of the samples were taken by the one and only Milk Officer on the staff and considering the wide and scattered nature of the County, the large number of designated farms to be sampled, and the time she has to devote to investigating unsatisfactory samples and paying routine visits, the number is remarkably good, and she has had to work many hours of overtime to obtain them. The results of the examination of the samples are given in the following table:-

Designation	No. Samples examined	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Certified	7	4	3
Tuberculin Tested	364	287	77
Standard	-	-	-
Pasteurised	34	29	5
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	23	23	-
Totals	428	343	85

The number of producers from whom three consecutive unsatisfactory samples were obtained was six. In each case it was decided to take a further sample as progressive improvement was being shown and the fourth sample in each case passed the test successfully. At two of the farms concerned, the trouble was traced to Mastitis, and at another the water supply was at fault. When an unsatisfactory sample is reported the Milk Officer visits the farm immediately to investigate and every effort is made to trace the cause of the trouble. Sometimes several visits and experimental samples have to be taken before the trouble is located. Most farmers are only too willing to co-operate and to act on any advice given and appreciate the services rendered.

Samples of designated milks were also obtained from retailers' premises and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of the 48 samples taken, 31 were Pasteurised, 12 were Tuberculin Tested and 5 were Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised). One of the Pasteurised Milks and 2 of the Tuberculin Tested Milks/





Milks failed to comply with the required bacteriological standards.

Fifty-four non-designated milk samples were examined bacteriologically and 38 or 70% complied with the standard for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

#### Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948.

The position regarding the number of registered premises and vehicles at the end of the year was as follows:-

	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>
No. of Registrations granted in 1953	10	2
No. of Registrations cancelled in 1953	-	-
No. of Registrations in Force	38	4

Visits of inspection to the number of 73 were made to premises where ice cream is manufactured and/or sold. No serious contraventions of the Regulations were observed and the few minor irregularities which were discovered were rectified by the dealers.

Samples of ice cream taken for chemical analysis are included under Food and Drugs. In addition, 22 samples were procured for bacteriological examination and 4 were found to be unsatisfactory. Repeat samples were taken and these were found satisfactory.

#### Factories Act.

There are 100 non-mechanical and 144 mechanical factories on the register and a number of visits of inspection were carried out during the year under this heading. Four written notices were sent to owners or occupiers in respect of the following unsatisfactory conditions - want of cleanliness - 1; unsuitable and defective conveniences - 2; and insufficient sanitary accommodation - 1.

#### Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the County other than the public slaughterhouses in Campbeltown, Dunoon, Oban and Islay and the private slaughterhouses. The structural condition and lay-out of the public slaughterhouses leaves much to be desired but despite these handicaps the premises are maintained in a reasonably clean condition.

#### Housing.

The number of new houses erected by the Local Authority for general needs and occupied during the year was 66, comprising 32 three-apartment and 34 four-apartment houses (including 12 Agricultural Workers' houses). The total number of houses built by the Local Authority since 1939 to the end of the year is 735, comprising 299 temporary houses and 436 permanent (313 non-traditional and 123 traditional) houses. The Local Authority have also approved of proposals for the reconstruction of old properties which they have acquired in Ballachulish and Drumlemble. The Ballachulish scheme consists of the reconstruction of 24 houses into two-apartment houses with bathrooms and sculleries and the Drumlemble scheme will provide 6 two-apartment houses and 10 three-apartment houses with bathrooms and sculleries.

The number of new houses erected and completed during the year by private persons was 19 comprising 3 of three-apartments, 13 of four-apartments and 2 of five-apartments and 1 over five-apartments. In addition, 88 four-apartment houses and 3 five-apartment houses were completed and occupied by the Forestry Commission.

Over/





Over 500 visits of enquiry were made in connection with applications for the tenancy of new County Council houses and County Council houses which had become vacant during the year. The visits were made to ascertain the housing conditions of the applicants and to assess points to each applicant under the County Council's Points Scheme. Numerous visits of inspection were also made in connection with complaints received from persons regarding their housing conditions. Many of the houses inspected were in the unfit category and from the economic point of view, not repairable, and no substantial headway will be made in the elimination of these insanitary and uninhabitable houses until a concentrated effort is made to re-house the occupiers.

#### Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Unfit Houses.

During the year 28 houses were represented to the County Council for Demolition or Closing Orders. Twenty-seven of the houses concerned were vacated by successful applicants for County Council Houses and the remaining house was vacant. After consideration it was agreed to serve Demolition Orders on 15 houses, Closing Orders on 9 houses, and to accept undertakings in respect of three houses to allow the owners to submit proposals for the reconstruction of the houses. It was agreed not to take any action in respect of the remaining house.

#### Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1950/52 - Improvement Grants.

Sixty-five applications for "improvement" grants were received during the year and of these, 56 were approved, 2 were refused, 6 were withdrawn and consideration was continued in one case to allow the applicant to submit amended proposals. Works were completed on 23 houses during the year and the total amount of grant money paid to the applicants was £6,819. 3. 7d.

The total number of applications received for grants since the commencement of the Act is 163, of which 117 have been approved, 17 refused, 21 withdrawn and 8 have not yet been started or are still under consideration. Improvements have been completed at 49 houses and the total amount of grant money paid in respect of these houses is £12,484.12/-.

#### Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 - Section 103.

Two applications for financial assistance for the erection of houses for Agricultural Workers were received and approved and one house was completed and occupied at the end of the year.

#### Building Byelaws.

Applications dealt with under the County Building Byelaws numbered 206 and the total number of visits of inspection carried out in connection therewith, including the smoke-testing of drains and visits made in regard to Byelaw enquiries which did not result in applications being made, was over 500.

The following statement shows the number of new houses approved (excluding County Council houses), the nature of the works proposed to be carried out in respect of existing houses and buildings, and the number of houses involved (houses improved with the aid of a grant under/



under the Housing (Scotland) Acts 1950/52 included):-

Nature of Building	No. of Houses				Totals
	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts.	Over 5 Apts.	
<u>New Houses:-</u>					
Private Houses ... ..	10	16	1	1	28
Forestry Commission ...	-	32	1	-	33
Ministry of Works .. ...	-	4	-	-	4
Lighthouse Commissioners..	-	6	-	-	6
Conversion of House to 2 Houses	-	6	2	-	8
Conversion of House to 3 Houses	3	-	-	-	3
Conversion of House to 4 Houses	2	2	-	-	4
Convert Building to form House	-	1	1	-	2
Convert 2 Houses to 1.. ...	-	-	-	1	1
Temporary Houses ... ..	3	8	-	-	11
Halls ... ..	-	-	-	-	2
Provision of Sanitary Improvements.. ...	-	-	-	-	47
Provision of Sanitary Improve- ments with Additions ...	-	-	-	-	61
Additions only... ..	-	-	-	-	16
Other Works to Dwellinghouses	-	-	-	-	12
Erection of Public Toilets...	-	-	-	-	2
Works to Business Premises...	-	-	-	-	5

Tents, Vans and Sheds etc.

Visits of inspection to the number of 73 were made to the various Workmen's Camps, Forestry Commission Hostels, Timber Workers' Huts and Holiday Camps throughout the County.

Conditions generally, both in regard to the accommodation provided and standard of cleanliness, were satisfactory at the Forestry Commission Hostels and Workmen's Camps. The Timber Workers are usually accommodated in small huts singly or in pairs where they sleep, cook and dine but they seem to prefer it this way. The camps are usually of fairly short duration and the number of men accommodated at each camp ranges from 3 to 9. Two and three apartment huts are provided for married men and their families and apart from cooking facilities and sometimes a sink with water laid on the accommodation is rough and ready.

One Holiday Camp where there was a lack of sufficient sanitation and no proper water supply and the conditions were not suitable for a large camp was visited on several occasions. The camp is situated just beyond the boundary of Campbeltown. With the co-operation of the owner of the land, camping on this site is now prohibited and the Town Council of Campbeltown are endeavouring to find a more suitable site.

The popular holiday camping site at Ganavan Sands has W.C. accommodation provided for males and females and water laid on to stand-pipes at advantageous points. The existing facilities, however, are quite inadequate during peak periods when there is as many as 65-70 caravans/





caravans and 50 tents on the site with an estimated population of 300 persons.

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

There are no Rat Extermination Officers on the County staff. The work is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors but their duties are mainly confined to investigating complaints of infestation and the survey of food shops and other premises where infestations are most likely to occur. Direct action, however, was taken by the Sanitary Inspectors at two refuse dumps controlled by the Local Authority. The dumps concerned are at Inveraray and Kinlochleven. In both instances Sorex bait containing Warfarin was used with good results, and an estimated kill of 100-150 rats was obtained at Inveraray and the kill at Kinlochleven, where the infestation was severe, was at least a 100 rats. Two schools were also located by the Sanitary Inspectors and complete clearances were obtained.

Several complaints of infestations were received and these were investigated and the occupiers advised regarding treatment. The total number of visits of inspection carried out was 63 and the premises concerned were - 17 dwellinghouses; 34 business premises; 3 agricultural subjects and 9 Local Authority premises. Excluding the refuse dumps the number of premises found to be infested was 12 dwellinghouses, 9 business premises, 3 farms and 2 schools. Successful clearances were obtained at 24 premises including refuse dumps.

Five inspections were carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951 and in each case treatment was found unnecessary.

#### Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.

No samples were procured during the year and there were no requests from purchasers to take samples of fertilisers or feeding stuffs for analysis.

#### Infectious Diseases.

Visits of enquiry and for the disinfection of houses were carried out in connection with 39 cases of infectious disease as follows - Scarlet Fever - 16; Tuberculosis - 20; Mumps - 1; Chickenpox - 1 and Suspected Diphtheria - 1.

Compensation for the destruction of mattresses and bedding was paid in three instances.

#### Nuisances

The nuisances dealt with were of the usual type, namely - choked and defective drains, defective water supply pipes, accumulations of refuse, dirty houses and disrepair in houses. Twenty-nine written intimations of nuisances were served and others were dealt with verbally. It was not found necessary to serve any statutory notices in terms of Section 20 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

One complaint concerned the pollution of the Machrihanish Water by water pumped from the coal mine at Machrihanish. The water pumped from the mine contained a great quantity of fine matter in suspension, consisting mainly of coal dust and dross and large quantities of it were being deposited at various places on the bed and banks of the Machrihanish Water. A settling tank has been installed as an experiment to allow most of the suspended matter to settle out before the water is discharged into the burn. The nuisance is being kept under observation.

#### Burial Grounds.

Extensions/



Extensions were approved for the burial grounds at Kilchattan, Colonsay; Keills, Jura; and Sorobay and Kirkapol, Tiree and the old part of Kilviekeon burial ground, Mull was closed for further interments. Repairs to access roads and boundary walls were carried out at 3 burial grounds. Most of the burial grounds in the County are now under the care of the Local Authority.

#### Burials.

Ten burials were undertaken at the cost of the Local Authority under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

#### Special Lighting Districts.

Special lighting Districts at Machrihanish and Port Charlotte were formed during the year.

#### Public Conveniences.

A public convenience is in the course of erection at Fionnphort, Mull and negotiations are presently being made for sites for conveniences at Tarbert and Kinlochleven.







